

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION**

(1) On page 4, please replace the paragraph beginning "FIG. 1" with the following amended paragraph:

FIG. 1 is a conceptual block diagram of the safety apparatus for a car crash of the present invention, wherein imaging means 1 (such as an area image sensor, e.g., CCD) is fixed at an upper lateral side of an automobile body 2 in order to pick up an image of a passenger (including a driver) on a passenger seat 3. Concretely, the area image sensor 1 looks down the upper space of a seat 3 and outputs the picked-up image to an image processing unit 5. The image signal is a sequentially outputted raster scan signal which constructs a two dimensional frame signal. The safety apparatus further comprises: an A/D converter 4 for converting the output from the area image sensor 1; and an air bag control unit 6 connected with the output terminal of the image processing unit.

(2) On page 8, please replace the paragraph beginning "Boundaries without a passenger" with the following amended paragraph:

Boundaries without a passenger are extracted from a frame image and are stored beforehand. Then, the stored boundaries are subtracted from boundaries extracted at step S100 S100 from a frame image with a passenger, and extraction of a head ellipse is executed at step S102 based on the subtracted boundaries. Thus, the image noise is effectively removed.

(3) On page 11, please replace the paragraph beginning "The determination accuracy" with the following amended paragraph:

The determination accuracy is not lowered, even when the passenger rotates his or her head, because the area sensor-sensors 1 and 11 independently determine the passenger kind. The shoulder width of the passenger is further measured by the area image sensor 11, thereby knowing more accurately the passenger's physical conditions.